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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for producing asphaltene pellets comprising:
  - a) flow means that supplies hot asphaltene through a conduit to its outlet; and
  - b) pellet producing medium that breaks up the liquid stream of said hot asphaltene exiting the outlet of said conduit and produces pellets of asphaltene.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1 including:
  - a) a reservoir or container that collects said pellets of asphaltene together with some fluid producing a slurry; and
  - b) transporting means that transports said slurry to the required location.

- 2*. ~~Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said fluid is liquid water.~~

- abc* 3. ~~Apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said transporting means includes a conduit that supplies the slurry to the required location.~~

- 4*. ~~Apparatus according to claim 3 including a pump for pumping the slurry to said location.~~

- 5*. ~~Apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said pellet producing medium is liquid water.~~

- 6*. ~~Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said pellet producing medium is liquid water.~~

- 7*. ~~A method for producing asphaltene/pellets comprising the steps of:~~

- a*) supplying hot asphaltene through a conduit to its outlet; and
- b*) breaking up the liquid stream of said hot asphaltene exiting the outlet of said conduit using a pellet producing medium to produce pellets of asphaltene.

~~8.~~ A method according to claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

- a) collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some fluid producing a slurry; and
- b) transporting said slurry to a required location.

~~9.~~ A method according to claim 8 wherein the step of collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some fluid producing a slurry is carried out by collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some liquid water producing a heavy hydrocarbon or asphaltene - water slurry.

~~10.~~ A method according to claim 7 wherein said step of breaking up the liquid stream of said hot asphaltene flowing out of the outlet of said conduit using a pellet producing medium so that pellets of asphaltene are produced is carried out by spraying a fluid so that the fluid contacts the asphaltene exiting said outlet of the conduit and pellets of asphaltene are produced.

~~9~~ ~~11.~~ A method according to claim ~~9~~ wherein the step of transporting said slurry ~~to a required location~~ is carried out by supplying said slurry via a conduit to a required location.

~~12.~~ A method according to claim ~~9~~ including pumping the slurry to said location.

~~13.~~ A method according to claim ~~10~~ wherein the step of spraying a fluid so that the fluid contacts the asphaltene exiting said outlet of the conduit and pellets of asphaltene are produced is carried out by spraying liquid water.

~~14.~~ A method according to claim 8 including grinding said asphaltene pellets and transporting the grinded asphaltene pellets to a location.